

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

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AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-02 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7199

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EG, SY, US

SUBJ: JUNE 22 ISRAELI PRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT.

SUMMARY: ISRAELI PRESS HIGHLIGHTS KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING RE COMPROMISE PLAN FOR INTERIM GOE-GOI AGREEMENT, AND PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S FIRM INSISTENCE ON RETENTION OF EASTERN SIDE OF PASSES. PRESS REPORTS THAT ISRAELI CABINET MEETING JUNE 22 MAY BE TAKING UP ISSUE OF PASSES AS PART OF FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS REQUESTED BY USG. ISRAELI PROPOSALS WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO CAIRO LATER THIS WEEK. PRESS ALSO COVERS KHADDEM'S MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, AND REPORTED SYRIAN DEMAND FOR NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. JERUSALEM POST'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WOLF BLITZER, IN LEAD STORY, REPORTS THAT SECRETARY CALLED IN AMBASSADOR DINITZ ON JUNE 20 TO REVIEW FINAL DETAILS OF POSSIBLE COMPROMISE PLAN FOR ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN INTERIM AGREEMENT. THIS PLAN IS TO BE PRESENTED IN CAIRO LATER THIS WEEK BY AMBASSADOR EILTS. KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY CALLED IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS UNCLASSIFIED

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OVER DETAILED PLAN, WHICH ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY SECRETARY AND ACCEPTED BY PRIME MINISTER RABIN DURING HIS TALKS HERE.

2. BLITZER CONTINUES THAT PLAN IS SUPPOSED TO INCLUDE A DETAILED

MAP OF THE REGION. NEW ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS SAID TO RUN FROM BARDAWIL, ALONG MEDITERRANEAN COAST, IN SOUTHWESTERNLY DIRECTION TO POINT JUST BELOW ABU RODEIS. ISRAEL WOULD RETAIN CONTROL OF BIR GAFGAFA (RIFIDIM), WHERE IT MAINTAINS AN AIR BASE, AND TWO LAND CORRIDORS FROM BIR GAFGAFA TO TWO AREAS CONTAINING EARLY WARNING ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE DEVICES. ONE STATION IS SAID TO BE ATOP GIDI PASS, AND THE OTHER IS AT UMM KHISHEIBA, NORTHWEST OF THE GIDI PASS. ISRAEL IS SAID NOW TO BE READY TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM MITLA PASS, CONSIDERED OF LESS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. ISRAEL MAY BE READY TO ACCEPT SEPARATE ENCLAVES AROUND THE TWO STATIONS, BUT PREFERS THE LAND CORRIDORS.

3. BLITZER ADDS THAT ISRAEL WILL BE ASKING FOR "CERTAIN PARALLEL ASSURANCES" FROM US CONCERNING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. MOREOVER RABIN IS REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED PRESIDENT FORD THAT US AVOID ANNOUNCING ANY FINAL OUTLINE OF MIDEAST PEACE SETTLEMENT OUT OF CONCERN THAT THIS WOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION FOR A NEARLY TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO PRE 1967 BORDERS.

4. BLITZER CONCLUDES THAT AMBASSADOR EILTS MAY BE POSTPONING HIS RETURN TO CAIRO WHILE AWAITING DINITZ' REPORT TO SECRETARY ON DE-LIBERATIONS OF ISRAELI CABINET, MEETING JUNE 22, ON CERTAIN QUESTIONS REQUIRING FURTHER CLARIFICATION.

5. JERUSALEM POST'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT DAVID LANDAU, REPORTING FROM JERUSALEM, UNDER HEADLINE "RABIN SEEN FIRM ON SINAI PASSES", WRITES THAT PM BELIEVES ISRAEL MUST RETAIN POSSESSION OF EASTERN SIDE OF PASSES, AND IS APPARENTLY PREPARED TO ARGUE THIS CRUCIAL POINT BOTH WITH WASHINGTON AND WITH "DOUBTING MEMBERS" OF ISRAELI CABINET. ISSUE COULD COME UP AT JUNE 22 CABINET MEETING IF WASHINGTON PRESS REPORTS RE SECRETARY'S REQUEST FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS OF ISRAELI POSITION ARE TRUE. RABIN'S PUBLIC REFERENCES LAST WEEK TO "POINT BEYOND WHICH ISRAEL CANNOT GO WITHOUT ENDANGERING HER SECURITY" ARE INTERPRETED HERE AS REFERRING TO THIS POSITION. HIS WARNING TO JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY LAST WEEK THAT IF EGYPT'S POSITION DOES NOT CHANGE THERE WILL PROBABLY BE NO SETTLEMENT.
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MENT, IS UNDERSTOOD TO REFER TO EGYPT'S REJECTION SO FAR OF ANY PROPOSAL NOT INVOLVING COMPLETE EVACUATION OF PASSES.

6. LANDAU CONTINUES THAT CABINET HAS NOT YET VOTED ON ISSUE OF PASSES. CABINET JUNE 17 GAVE NEGOTIATING TRIO OF RABIN, PERES AND ALLON MANDATE TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME; IN EVENT OF DEADLOCK, HOWEVER, THEY MUST REPORT BACK TO FULL CABINET. RABIN'S POSITION ON PASSES HAS FOUND "CONSISTENT SUPPORT" FROM PERES AND YAACOB. HILLEL AND THREE NRP MINISTERS ALSO WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT RABIN ON THIS. ILP, MAPAM AND SOME LABOR PARTY MINISTERS ON OTHER HAND WOULD COUNTENANCE FURTHER CONCESSIONS ON PASSES, ALTHOUGH ONLY FEW "ULTRA-DOVES" WOULD CONSIDER COMPLETE EVACUATION OF BOTH PASSES. ALLON AND RABINOWITZ ARE BELIEVED TO FEEL THAT GOI'S

POSITION ON PASSES COULD BE REVIEWED, WITH VIEW TO PROPOSING SOME FURTHER "PARALLEL" CONCESSIONS BY BOTH SIDES IF IT APPEARED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE DEADLOCKED AND ANOTHER RIFT WITH US WAS ON HORIZON.

7. HAARETZ' WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT REPORTS THAT ALMOST COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL ON TERMS OF INTERIM AGREEMENT EXCEPT DETERMINATION OF NEW WITHDRAWAL LINE. AMERICANS, MARGALIT WRITES, ARE CONVINCED THAT EGYPT WILL AGREE TO THREE YEAR DURATION, AS WELL AS TO FOLLOWING TERMS: A) NAMES OF 10 US FIRMS WILL BE REMOVED FROM ARAB BOYCOTT LIST; B) ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOVEMENT OF ARAB TOURISTS, RESIDENTS OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND DIPLOMATS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT; AND C) DIMINUTION OF EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC WARFARE AGAINST ISRAEL. MARGALIT ALSO NOTES THAT USG IS CONVINCED THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT TRY TO IMPLEMENT TEST CASE FOR PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH SUEZ CANAL BEFORE RENEWAL OF SECRETARY'S SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY.

8. ALL ISRAELI PRESS REPORT ON VISIT OF SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM TO WASHINGTON, NOTING THAT USG HAS BEEN TRYING "TO NEUTRALIZE" SYRIAN OBJECTIONS TO NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON SOURCES, KHADDEM IS BELIEVED TO HAVE ASSURED FORD AND KISSINGER THAT SYRIA WILL NOT STAND IN WAY OF INTERIM AGREEMENT, PROVIDED US PROMISES TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING SUBSEQUENT ISRAEL WITHDRAWALS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. USG REPORTEDLY PROMISED KHADDEM ONLY THAT US WOULD WORK TO PREVENT ANY STALEMATE IN MIDDLE EAST. HAARETZ ARAB AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT ZARAI, REPORTING FROM JERUSALEM, WRITES THAT SYRIA HAS CLARIFIED TO US THAT INTERIM AGREEMENT MUST BE LINKED TO SIMILAR AGREEMENT IN GOLAN. PRESS ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTES STATEMENT OF SYRIAN INFOMIN TO CAIRO'S ROSE-EL-YOUSEF THAT "SYRIA DEMANDS A WITHDRAWAL ALL ALONG THE PRESENT DISENGAGEMENT LINE -- A COMPLETE PULLBACK ALONG THE FRONT". IT IS NOTED THAT THIS REFERS MAINLY TO THREE HILLS OVERLOOKING KUNEITRA. VELIOTES

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